

# Rising Sea Levels: Regional Actions



Commission Workshop  
May 19, 2016

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## Workshop Series



- First Workshop, January 2016: Five Year Review of BCDC's Climate Policies
- Second Workshop, March 2016: Regional Resilience
- Third Workshop, April 2016: Regional Actions
- Fourth Workshop, May 2016: Commissioner Conversation about Next Steps and Direction



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## Objectives for the Workshop Series



- Bring issues identified by the *Rising Sea Level and Bay Fill Commissioner Working Groups*, *Policies for a Rising Bay project*, and the *Adapting to Rising Tides Program* to the full Commission and a broader range of participants
- Assist the Commission in determining the direction BCDC and the region should take to address rising sea levels
- Begin new levels of coordination and collaboration



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## Today's Workshop



At this workshop we will:

- Create a robust discussion among Commissioners and Alternates that considers public input from the first three workshops
- Select a number of recommendations to implement, further analyze, or develop
- Refine and clarify recommendations and provide direction to staff regarding next steps and desired outcomes

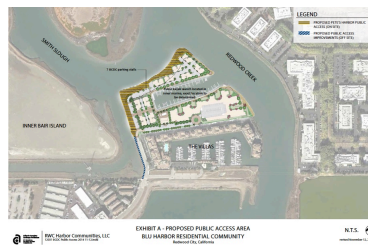
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## 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop Recap: Climate Policies



The discussion resulted in four primary themes:

- BCDC's jurisdiction and authority
- The project-by-project approach that is a result of applying the current climate change policies
- The balance of risk, innovation and adaptive management
- The regional approach to resilience

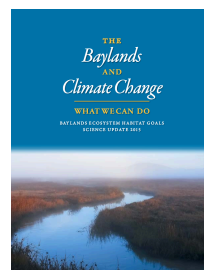


## 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop Recap: Regional Resilience



The workshop resulted in:

- Identification and recommendation of possible regional actions
- Recommendations regarding implementation of regional actions
- Questions and issues raised about governance, stakeholder and public engagement, funding and the tension between guidance and requirements (or carrots and sticks)



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop Recap: Regional Actions



The 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop included:

- Action Open House
- Action prioritization – should BCDC lead or support? Should BCDC discuss at Workshop #4?
- Small group discussion and refinement of seven actions that received the most sticker votes



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## 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop Recap: Regional Actions



- Create a regional sea level rise adaptation plan that serves as a framework for implementing early and future actions while allowing for immediate early actions to be developed in advance of the plan (20 votes)
- Complete multi-sector, county-scale sea level rise vulnerability assessments for all 9 counties using a consistent approach such as Adapting to Rising Tides (18 votes)
- Explore new institutional arrangements, such as a regional authority, to empower the regional agencies to address the impacts of climate change together (15 votes)

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### 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop Recap: Regional Actions



- Identify and facilitate the prioritization ~~Prioritize the development and implementation~~ of physical interventions to reliably protect regionally significant natural and man-made assets from flooding (10 votes)
- Identify and fund a regional data repository to collect and share data to guide sea level rise strategies and actions ~~a regional public entity to be a “go-to” sea level rise data repository~~ (10 votes)
- Develop regional regulatory system to discourage new development that is not resilient along the shoreline for those areas below estimated elevations of sea level rise. (8 votes)  
*This action was written in by a workshop participant*
- Change existing regulations to better allow for the consideration of sea level rise impacts in permitting and decision-making (8 votes)

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### Workshop 4 Recommendations



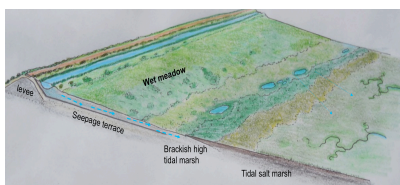
- Reviewed outcomes from all three workshops
- Compared outcomes with findings from Adapting to Rising Tides, Policies for a Rising Bay, Bay Fill and Rising Sea Level Working Groups
- Met with representatives from a wide variety of agencies, organizations and perspectives
- Considered which actions were most appropriate for the Commission to lead and which actions were necessary to move the region forward

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## Workshop 4 Recommendations



1. Regional Adaptation Plan
2. Consistent County-scale Assessments
3. New Institutional Arrangements
4. Prioritize Physical Interventions
5. Change Existing Laws and Policies



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## Regional Adaptation Plan



### *Possible actions:*

- Develop a plan led by BCDC with prioritized actions using a similar approach as the Regional Transportation Plan
- Form and lead a regional working group to guide plan development and implementation
- Start a new Commissioner Working Group on innovative financing
- Create a real-time dashboard that depicts regional progress towards resilience



Discussion Time: 30 minutes

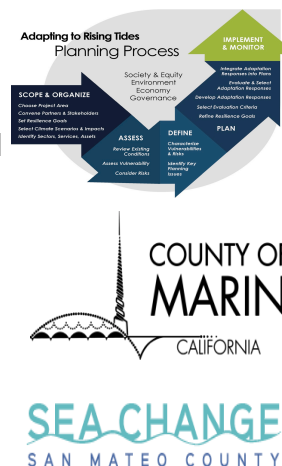
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## Consistent County-scale Assessments



### Possible actions:

- Use ART as the approach
- Use findings from ART or other completed assessments as a starting point
- Combine this recommendation with the development of the Regional Adaptation Plan
- Develop a financing plan to complete ART in all nine counties within three years



Discussion Time: 15 minutes 13

## New Institutional Arrangements



### Possible actions:

- Support and promote local and regional cooperation and coordination that builds on the Regional Adaptation Plan
- Use the 2017 Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) update to further policy discussions and the 2021 SCS to fully vet a Regional Adaptation Plan
- Work with others to develop a regional educational campaign about adapting to rising sea level aimed primarily at children
- Work with others to develop an approach to educate the public about sea level rise and the regional assets at risk

Discussion Time: 20 minutes 14

## Prioritize Physical Interventions



### *Possible actions:*

- Identify the types of adaptation approaches that are likely to be successful and scalable
- Help build a Bay Area-wide consensus to beneficially reuse dredged materials
- Establish an Adaptation Review Board with expertise on innovative green shoreline solutions
- Support the State Coastal Conservancy in initiating a Green Shoreline Infrastructure Help Desk to implement the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Update

Discussion Time: 20 minutes 15

## Change Existing Laws and Policies



### *Possible actions:*

- Complete *Policies for a Rising Bay* which analyzes fill policies in light of rising sea level
- Change BCDC's permit application to require information on the potential impacts on adjoining properties
- Develop a comprehensive multi-agency permit process for projects that place fill in the Bay to increase resilience
- Discuss amending the McAteer-Petris Act, Bay Plan and BCDC regulations to change the definition and use of "fill"

Discussion Time: 20 minutes 16

## Recommendations



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